

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8708

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

RUFHNARMUSMISSION NATO 3562

USMISSION USUN

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

UNCLAS ANKARA 2757

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR

SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS COVERAGE OF GREEK MILITARY BUILD-UP
ON AEGEAN ISLANDS

1. TURKISH PRESS OVER WEEKEND GAVE EXTENSIVE AND
PROMINENT COVERAGE TO ALLEGED GREEK MILITARY BUILD-UP
ON AEGEAN ISLANDS BUT MONDAY, APRIL 7, PRESS COVERAGE
THIS ISSUE MUCH REDUCED AND LOWER IN TONE.

2. CONSERVATIVE TERCUMAN REPORTED SUNDAY, APRIL 6, THAT
TURKEY PROTESTED TO SIGNATORIES OF LAUSANNE AND PARIS
TREATIES OVER CONTINUED GREEK ARMAMENT OF AEGEAN
ISLANDS CLOSE TO TURKISH MAINLAND. TERCUMAN ALSO
REPORTED OLYMPIC AIRLINES MAP SHOWING AEGEAN ISLAND
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AIRFIELDS WHICH TURKS MAINTAIN COULD BE USED FOR MILITARY

PURPOSES AND STATED GOT MIGHT TAKE MATTER TO UN.

3. SENSATIONALIST HURRIYET IN SIMILAR VEIN REPORTED THAT GREEKS HAD PULLED ALL FORCES FROM YUGOSLAV, BULGARIAN AND ALBANIAN BORDERS AND MASSED THEM AT AEGEAN ISLANDS AND GREEK-TURKISH BORDER, AND THAT 35,000 TROOPS WITH MORE THAN 100 TANKS HAD BEEN SENT TO RHODES.

4. MASS CIRCULATION GUNAYDIN AND MILLIYET REPORTED ON SATURDAY, APRIL 5, THAT GREEK NAVY FLEET HAS BEEN VISITING AEGEAN ISLANDS CLOSE TO TURKEY, REINFORCING MILITARY UNITS THERE AND CONDUCTING AN EXERCISE NEARBY.

5. GUNAYDIN REPORTED THAT GREECE HAD PROTESTED TO TURKEY ABOUT THURSDAY, APRIL 3, OVERFLIGHTS OF GREEK ISLANDS BY TURKISH AIRCRAFT. GUNAYDIN TODAY, APRIL 7, NOTED GOG SPOKESMAN STATEMENT THAT TURKISH AIRCRAFT HAD NOT APPEARED OVER AEGEAN FOR PAST TWO DAYS. GOG SPOKESMAN ALSO REPORTED DENYING THAT GREEK FORCES CONFRONTED TURKS NEAR AEGEAN ISLANDS OR THAT THERE HAD BEEN INCIDENTS OF FIRING AT GREEK-TURKISH BORDER IN THRACE.

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